
First Congregational UCC "At First"

1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

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Rev. Adam Thompson; Pastor

January 2024

Sunday School News!

Sunday School will resume with regular classes on January 12th & 19th. See you in church!

Bible Study

will begin again on Monday, January 6th at 9:00 am. We will meet in the ****connecting room of the church****. This is a great opportunity to grow in faith, dive deeper into Scripture, and enjoy fellowship with others. All are welcome—whether you're new to Bible study or have been attending for years. Bring your Bible and an open heart! We look forward to seeing you there!

Church Envelopes

Please use your offering envelopes from the church, when possible, by not using the envelopes it makes it more difficult for them to keep track of your offerings. You still have the option of having your pledges taken directly out of your savings or checking account. Call the church office at 864-3855 for more information or go to First Congregational – Online Giving. This is a quick and easy way to give, go our website

at: www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/.

Common Cup Diaper Drive

Dollars for Diapers! YES, for January's Mission project we're making the challenge of donating easy! When you provide the dollars, we'll shop and deliver our church's gift to the Common Cup program. Throughout January we'll have a diaper bag prominently displayed in the sanctuary where you can deposit your donation. The Discipleship team will do the rest. We'll be collecting throughout the month and will announce our "diaper totals" in February. **Please make checks out to First Congregational Church. Contact Ann Wangerin at 320-864-6379 with any questions.** We are also collecting Target cards for purchasing diapers.

New Member Class

Interested in Becoming a Member? No matter who you are or where life's journey finds you, you are welcome here and we would love for you to join our church family! **New Member Classes will be held Wednesday, January 8th and 22nd, 2025 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall**

On The Job in January

Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson

In Charge of the Altar: Ann Wangerin



2. Rebecca Forcier
4. Dawn Shemanek
5. Tammy Hanson
Renee Lehmann
6. Evon Draeger
7. Kari Warner
19. Sam McNellis
20. Jessica Richardson
23. Colton Robb
27. Allen Trocke
31. Ariana Bolt

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, Thank you for making all things new. Thank you for all that you allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. As we enter a new year, we pray for strengthened spirits that we may praise you properly by our thoughts, words and deeds, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Huge Thank You

to all at First Congregational for your generosity in supporting the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. There was wonderful fellowship & many good souls prepared food & served over 160 from all walks of life, including some that would not have a dinner on thanksgiving.

Over \$1200 was raised for the local food shelf which reminds us of Mathew 25:40 " whatever you did for one of the least of brothers & sisters of mine, you did for me." God bless you all! Barb Magnuson

Shut-In Visits

If you would like a visit, please contact Pastor Adam at church, 320-864-3855, or his cell #952-239-5893 or email: ajthompson2@comcast.net.

Pastor's Page:

Happy New Year!

2025 has arrived and my heart is filled with gratitude for the blessings of the past year and the anticipation of all that God will do in the months ahead. January marks not just the start of a new calendar, but an opportunity to renew our focus, refresh our faith, and realign our lives with God's purposes.

The beginning of the year often comes with resolutions and commitments. While setting personal goals can be meaningful, I encourage us to center our greatest resolution around deepening our relationship with Christ. As Psalm 37:5 reminds us, "*Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.*" Let us resolve to trust God more, seek God's guidance daily, and be a light in our community.

Through our Sunday messages, fellowship, and outreach efforts, we'll explore how God invites us to step boldly into His plans for us. Whether you're stepping into a new season of life, continuing a faithful journey, or facing unexpected challenges, remember that God is faithful to renew our strength and provide all we need to fulfill God's calling.

I also want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks for your love and dedication to our church community. From your service in ministries to your generous giving, your faithfulness reflects God's love in tangible ways. As we look forward to 2025, I am truly excited about the opportunities before us to grow spiritually, reach out to those in need, and draw closer together as the body of Christ.

Let's embrace this new year with hearts wide open to God's leading. Together, we can make 2025 a year of spiritual growth, unity, and impactful ministry.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Adam

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!!	2 8:00 pm AA	3	4
5 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation Discipleship Meeting	6 9:00am Bible Study	7	8 6:00 pm New Member Class	9 8:00 pm AA	10	11
12 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation	13 9:00am Bible Study	14	15 Noon-Resource/ Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Leadership/Church Council Meeting	16 8:00 pm AA	17	18
19 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School No Confirmation Welcome/Worship/ Deacon's Meeting	20 9:00am Bible Study	21	22 6:00 pm New Member Class	23 8:00 pm AA	24	25
26 9:15 am Worship Service Annual Meeting No Confirmation	27 9:00am Bible Study	28	29	30 8:00 pm AA	31	

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Leadership Team Minutes – December 18, 2024
DRAFT

Attending: Stan Hoof, Jan Willand, Jim Cox, Carmen Kienenberger, Bridget Kienenberger,
Pastor Adam

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was given by Pastor Adam.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion to approve the November minutes, as written, was made by Jan and seconded by Carmen. Motion approved.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
 - Our church received a Business Investment Award by the Glencoe Chamber of Commerce, recognizing our upgrade of the building's heating/air system.
 - The Advent wreaths crafted by volunteers after church on December 1st were distributed to our "shut-in" members. All have expressed appreciation for this gift and our remembering of them. He has yet to connect with LaDonna Brinkman.
 - Through the approval by the Resource team, the Nuvera internet system installation is underway with wiring to begin in January. Also, two new cameras are being purchased.
 - Research on a potential non-profit pre-school daycare proposal continues. We continue to work with the Chamber.
 - Budgeting for a part-time Youth Director will be included in the 2025 Budget. Primary duties would include teaching weekly Sunday School class, create and hold a program for youth one evening a week and highlight church opportunities on FaceBook. A potential candidate could be a student from Crown College or a teacher through First Lutheran School. Our UCC counterparts have expressed little or no interest in joining in this effort, citing few families with children. The Board discussed what options are ahead for the church if numbers remain stagnant or decrease. This topic will be addressed at the Annual Meeting.
 - Pastor Adam noted that the merged Teams format is working well where there is a Team Leader. It was suggested that this be discussed at the Annual Meeting, also.

5. **TEAM LEADER REPORTS**

A. **Resource Team**

	<u>2024 Pledges</u>	<u>Total for Year</u>
November	\$ 9,553	\$ 65,229.56

This month was higher than average . To date 14 pledges have been received, totaling \$53,000.

1. **Foster Mechanical**, Mike Sanken – Work is completed and we are waiting for the State & City inspections.
2. **Sunday School Bathroom Repair** – The plumber has not gotten back to the church yet. Carmen will follow up again.
3. **Snow Removal for 2024 – 2025**: Neubarth Landscape has been hired for the season for \$2,500.
4. AKO Electric completed several repairs on overhead lighting in the sanctuary between October and November that were costly due to the need for scaffolding. The cloth covered wiring is becoming very fragile. \$1,812.28
5. AKO completed the wiring of the air handlers and boilers at a cost of \$4,503.36

6. Three bids were received for the painting of the Fellowship Hall @ \$10,000, \$4,000 and \$7,852. Jared Heldt was selected with the bid of \$7,852. Women's Fellowship will be asked to share in the cost of remodeling. Work could begin in January.
7. The church's insurance policy comes due the first of April. The premium will rise from \$12,000 to \$18,000.
8. A 3% salary increase was approved for Wendy Graf and Ann Wangerin effective January 1st.
9. Paperwork for the new State program, MN Mandatory Paid Leave, is underway.

B. Discipleship Team

1. Missions – The list of Missions of the Month program for 2025 was finalized at the Dec. 1st meeting. The Five for Five UCC Missions will be collected together during May, allowing other missions to be promoted including: Common Cup's Weekend Meals program for Kids, McLeod County Alliance Violence Prevention program, and fundraising efforts for the Community Thanksgiving Meal supplies. Also included are two church sponsored Community Outreach programs for the Spring Fling and the Glencoe parade.
2. Student Loan Program – The Team requested that this activity be handled by the Resource Team as our group doesn't "loan" money. A constitutional change at the Annual Meeting will move to the Resource Team.
3. Memorials – A memorial was received on behalf of Elroy Allen.
4. Christian Education – The Children's Holiday Performance took place December 15th, using an original play written by Vicki Schultz.

C. Deacons

Church Membership - The Deacons will be reviewing the church Membership List with the names in the Annual Report to bring records up-to-date.

D. Worship and Welcome Team -

Communion -Jan announced there will be no communion on December 24th or the 25th. Poinsettias are being ordered by Wendy. It was unclear how long they would stay on the altar.

6. Old Business

- A. Status of Annual Reports by Teams - Reports are still coming in to Wendy. She will be in the office on Monday, Dec. 23rd, and possibly Friday the 27th. She has asked for all January church bulletin information be in to her by December 26th.

7. New Business

- A. Topic Suggestions Requested for the Annual Report - Suggestions included Constitutional Change for Student Loans, Part-time Youth Director discussion, status of SLS, reminder of our new budget cycle (Jan.-Dec.), review of the Leadership Structure concept (including the structure diagram handout). Lastly, have people review their personal information from the members list and record changes on cards provided.

8. Motion to Adjourn – Jim motioned, which Jan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 15th @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Bridget Kienenberger



MISSION OF THE MONTH

JANUARY - COMMON CUP

DIAPER DRIVE

FEBRUARY - COMMON CUP

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD

MARCH - MCLEOD COUNTY

EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF

APRIL - FC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SPRING FLING

MAY - UCC

5 FOR 5 MISSIONS PROGRAMS

JUNE - FC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

GLENCOE PARADE

JULY - COMMON CUP

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

AUGUST

MCLEOD ALLIANCE VIOLENCE PREVENTION

SEPTEMBER - COMMON CUP

WARM COATS

OCTOBER

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

NOVEMBER

WHITE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER

2B CONTINUED

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION PARTNERS!!